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UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 001500

SIPDIS

STATE FOR S/CT (JOHN KINCANNON AND KIERSTEN MCCUTCHAN)

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: 2004 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT - DJIBOUTI

REF: SECSTATE 245841

1. (U) Embassy point of contact for Annual Terrorism Report is Pol/Econ Officer Erinn Reed (reedec@state.gov). Below is post changes to 2003 Country Section for Djibouti.

2. (U) Djibouti, a staunch supporter in the global war on terrorism and a member of the Arab League, has taken a strong stand against international terrorist organizations and individuals. Djibouti hosts the only U.S. military base in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to U.S. forces, it hosts Coalition forces from several countries on a rotating basis including France, Germany, Spain, Italy and Britain. There were no confirmed acts of domestic or transnational terrorism in Djibouti in 2004, but the Government took extraordinary measures from its limited resources to try and ensure the safety and security of Westerners posted in Djibouti. The Government received several million dollars during 2004 in training and assistance through the East African Counter-Terrorism Initiative to aid in its efforts to train security forces, secure borders and increase its capacity for maritime interdiction. Djibouti also joined the ranks of countries participating in the Safe Skies for Africa program in late 2004. Through this program, Djibouti is scheduled to receive funding to improve its airport security and infrastructure. The Government has also closed down terrorist linked financial institutions and shared security information on possible terrorist activity in the region. The counterterrorism committee under President Guelleh moved to enhance coordination and action on information concerning terrorist organizations.

3. (U) In October 2002, the United States established the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA). Based in Djibouti, CJTF-HOA coordinates Coalition anti-terrorism operations in six East African countries and Yemen.

4. (U) Djibouti is party to three of the 12 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and signed the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism on 15 November 2001.
RAGSDALE